

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A notifying method, comprising:
receiving an indication that a notification message should be delivered to a plurality of recipients;
identifying contact information for the plurality of recipients;
initiating outbound packetized calls to more than one of the plurality of recipients;
determining whether a first recipient of the plurality of recipients answers a first call of the outbound packetized calls, the first call placed to a first telephone address associated with the first recipient;
when the first recipient answers the first call, connecting the first call to a multicast server to deliver the message during the first call via the multicast server;
when the first recipient does not answer the first call, ~~placing one or more subsequent calls to~~ retrying the first recipient via one or more communication addresses associated with the first recipient, the one or more communication addresses including at least one of a second telephone address that is different from the first telephone address and an electronic mail address each of the one or more
subsequent calls placed after a predetermined time interval has passed; and
stopping retrying the first recipient after determining that the first recipient has received the notification message or after retrying all the one or more communication addresses associated with the first recipient
~~when a number of the one or more subsequent calls satisfies a threshold; stopping placing the one or more subsequent calls to the first recipient.~~

2. (Currently Anebded) The method of claim 1, wherein a connection supporting the first call comprises a twisted pair link, and wherein the method further comprises:
disconnecting from the first call; and
indicating successful delivery of the message to the first recipient called party.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
recognizing that customer premise equipment associated with the first call comprises
specialized ring tone functionality; and
communicating a specialized incoming call signal to the customer premise equipment.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a list of users to be notified in response to receipt of a given indicator;
determining that the received indication is the given indicator; and
using the list of users to identify contact information for the plurality of recipients.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the outbound
packetized calls comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP switch initiates the
outbound packetized calls simultaneously to more than one hundred of the plurality of recipients.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP switch initiates the
outbound packetized calls simultaneously to more than one of the plurality of recipients, wherein
the VoIP switch has a simultaneous connections limit, further wherein the more than one of the
plurality of recipients comprises a number of recipients greater than 75% of the simultaneous
connections limit.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the multicast server comprises
an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server, and wherein the method further comprises:
disconnecting from the first call; and
indicating successful delivery of the message to the first recipient.
9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the contact information comprises a VoIP
telephone number for each of the plurality of recipients.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising playing an audio file representing the message, the audio file having a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

11. (Currently Amended) A notification system, comprising:

a memory maintaining contact information for a collection of subscribers to be notified in response to a given notification signal, the collection of subscribers comprising a first user and the contact information for the first user comprising at least one of a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone number, a landline telephone number, a wireless device telephone number, and an electronic mail address for the first user;

a network interface operable to receive the given notification signal and to output a trigger signal in response to receipt of the given notification signal;

a message to be played to the collection of subscribers in response to receipt of the given notification signal;

a VoIP switch responsive to the trigger signal and operable to support a plurality of simultaneous connections, the VoIP switch further operable to initiate outbound communications VoIP calls to a plurality of users in the collection of subscribers;

a call answered notification received mechanism operable to determine whether the first user answers a given VoIP call receives a communication placed to the first user; and

an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server operable to, when the first user answers the a given VoIP call, deliver the message via the given VoIP call, and when the first user does not answer the given VoIP call, to retry the first user via the contact information place one or more subsequent VoIP calls to the first user, each of the one or more subsequent VoIP calls placed after a predetermined time interval has passed, and when a number of the one or more subsequent VoIP calls satisfies a threshold, to stop placing the one or more subsequent VoIP calls to the first user.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the VoIP switch is operable to communicatively couple to a plurality of the subscribers across links comprising twisted pair wiring.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a ring signal operable to initiate sending of a ring voltage in connection with the given VoIP call.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a notify list comprising the collection of subscribers to be notified in response to the given notification signal and a second collection of subscribers to be notified in response to a second notification signal, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive the second notification signal and to output a second trigger signal in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a second message to be played to the second collection of subscribers in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the given notification signal comprises an Emergency Alert System notification.

17. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a call log engine operable to track a metric associated with message delivery to the collection of subscribers, the call log engine further operable to initiate a retry signal directing the VoIP switch to retry a call to a given subscriber.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a specialized ring tone signal communicated to customer premise equipment operable to play a specialized ring tone that identifies an incoming call as an attempt to deliver the message.

19. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a broadband modem providing at least a portion of a link communicatively coupling the VoIP switch to a piece of customer premises equipment.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the contact information ~~further comprises an additional communication address for the first user, the additional communication address selected from the group consisting of an electronic mail address, a Plain Old Telephony Service telephone number,~~ further comprises at least one of an Instant Messaging address, a Short Messaging Service address, an Enhanced Messaging Service address, and a Multimedia Messaging Service address, ~~and a wireless telephone number.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating multicast notification, comprising:

- maintaining a collection of contact information including callable Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone numbers;
- creating a notification call list comprising at least one VoIP telephone number from the collection of contact information;
- associating the notification call list with an event trigger;
- saving a file representing a message to be played communicated to the notification call list in response to receipt of the event trigger;
- in response to receipt of the event trigger, initiating an individual a first call to the at least one a first VoIP telephone number of a first recipient on the notification list and a second individual call to a different telephone number on the call list in response to receipt of the event trigger;
- determining whether the individual first call is answered;
- when the individual first call is answered, passing the answered individual first call to an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server;
- playing the file to generate an output signal;
- communicating the message output signal via the answered individual first call using the IP multicast server;
- when [[a]] the first recipient does not answer the individual first call, retrying the first recipient via one or more communication addresses associated with the first recipient that are maintained in the contact information, the one or more communication addresses including at least one of a second VoIP telephone number that is different from the first VOIP telephone number and an electronic mail address placing one or more subsequent calls to the first recipient, each of the one or more subsequent calls placed after a predetermined time interval has passed; and
- when a number of the one or more subsequent calls retries satisfies a threshold, stopping placing the one or more subsequent calls to retrying the first recipient via the one or more communication addresses.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
creating a second ~~call~~ notification list comprising the at least one VoIP telephone number
from the collection; and
associating the second ~~call~~ notification list with a different event trigger.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the ~~call~~
notification list based at least partially on a geographic location of a telephone station associated
with the first VoIP telephone number.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the ~~call~~
notification list based at least partially on a group affiliation of a user associated with the first
VoIP telephone number.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the file has a format selected from the
group consisting of a .WAV file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
initiating presentation of an administrator interface to a remote party;
receiving via the administrator interface a request to create a second ~~call~~ notification list;
creating the second ~~call~~ notification list; and
associating the second ~~call~~ notification list with a different event trigger.

27. (Cancelled).